

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of determining a value of a skin characteristic, especially of a type of skin, for the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin, the method comprising the following steps:
  - generating light rays (2) by means of a light source (1);
  - irradiating a test sector (3) of a skin (4), to which tattooing or permanent make-up is to be applied by means of color, with the light rays (2);
  - 10 - measuring test light rays (5) formed in the test sector (3) by irradiation with the light rays (2), by a detector means (6) to generate measured electrical test light values of the test light rays (5);
  - processing the measured electrical values by an electronic processing means (7) to determine a characteristic value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin (4) in the test sector (3) and which is to be taken into account when applying permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin (4); and
  - 20 - outputting the characteristic value via an output means (8).
2. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein monochrome light rays of the red, green, and/or blue spectral regions are used as the light rays (2).
3. The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein white light rays are used as the light rays (2).
- 25 4. The method as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein a skin type value indicating a type of the skin (4) in the test sector (3) is determined and output as the characteristic value.
- 30 5. The method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein a color value indicating color suitable for the skin (4) for application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin (4) is determined and output as the characteristic value.

6. The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a chromaticity correction value for a corrective color indicated by the chromaticity correction value is determined as chromaticity value and output via the output means (8) during the automatic processing of the measured test light values by the electronic processing means (8).
7. The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein a corrective color volume statement for a volume amount of corrective color per volume amount of color is determined together with the chromaticity correction value and output via the output means (8).
8. The method as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 7, wherein electronic data including information on further characteristics of the skin (4) in the test sector (3), especially a pH, are processed when determining the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value by the electronic processing means (7).
9. The method as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 8, wherein a test value determined from the measuring light rays (5) and characterizing blue-coloring pigmentation of the skin (4) in the test sector (3) is taken into account when determining the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value.
10. The method as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 9, wherein another test value determined from the measuring light rays (5) and characterizing a property which colors the skin (4) in the test sector (3) orange is taken into account when determining the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value.
11. The method as claimed in any one of claims 5 to 10, wherein the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value in the form of electronic chromaticity value data is used as input value for an electronic imaging system with which at least a partial representation of a living test creature for which the test sector (3) of the skin (4) was examined is generated automatically on

an electronic display (21), taking into account the chromaticity value/chromaticity correction value.

12. An apparatus for determining a characteristic value of a skin (4), especially of a type of skin, for the application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin (4), comprising:

- a light source (1) for generating light rays (2);
- a detector means (6) for detecting test light rays (5) which are formed by irradiation of a test sector (3) of the skin (4) with the light rays (2) so as to generate respective measured electrical test light values of the test light rays (5) in a plurality of optical spectral regions;
- an electronic processing means (7) for automatic processing of the measured test light values to determine a characteristic value which is a measure of a characteristic of the skin (4) in the test sector (3) and which is to be taken into account when applying permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin (4); and
- an output means (8) for outputting the characteristic value.

13. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the electronic processing means (7) is configured to determine, as the characteristic value, a skin type value indicating a type of the skin (4).

14. The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, wherein the electronic processing means (7) is configured to determine, as the characteristic value, a chromaticity value indicating color for application of permanent make-up or tattooing to the skin (4).

15. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the light source (1) comprises a plurality of light emitting diodes for generating monochromatic light rays in the plurality of optical spectral regions.

16. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the processing means (7) is coupled to an arrangement (20) for automatic color analysis for application of tattooing or perma-

ment make-up to the skin (4) in order to transfer the characteristic value to the assembly (20) for automatic processing.

17. The apparatus as claimed in claim 16, wherein the arrangement (20) comprises a screen means (22) for presenting electronic  
5 image data and a control means (23) for processing the electronic image data in consideration of the characteristic value and for automatically adapting the characteristic value.

18. The apparatus as claimed in any one of claims 12 to 17, wherein  
10 a dispersion component (11) for spectral dispersion of the measuring light rays (5) is connected upstream of the detector means (6).